



# Montgomery County Council

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*From the Office of Councilmember Valerie Ervin*

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## **Korean Leaders Join County Councilmember Valerie Ervin and Delegate Susan Lee on Wed., Jan. 9, to Recognize the Passage of Korean American Day Legislation**

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ROCKVILLE, Md., January 4, 2013—Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9, will join leaders of the Korean community and Maryland State Delegate Susan Lee to raise awareness about Korean American Day. The County recognizes Korean American Day every Jan. 13 as a result of legislation Councilmember Valerie Ervin proposed, and the Council passed, last year to amend Montgomery County's Days of Commemoration Law.

The event will take place on the Third Floor of the Council Office Building at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville.

Korean American Day recognizes the significance of Jan. 13, 1903, when the first Korean immigrants arrived in the Hawaiian Islands, marking the first entry of Korean immigrants to the United States territories. The special County day also will celebrate the contributions of Korean Americans to life in Montgomery County and throughout the United States.

Councilmember Ervin was the primary sponsor of the legislation that amended the Days of Commemoration Law to include Korean American Day. The amendment was approved by the Council on March 20, 2012.

"Passing this legislation was a way for the County Council to salute the Korean community," said Councilmember Ervin. "Korean American Day is recognized by County residents in perpetuity, and we can all join in the celebration each year."

James Suh, president of the Korean American Association of Maryland, said having Montgomery officially recognize the importance of Jan. 13 is very important to members of the County's Korean community.

"Korean American Day signifies the acceptance and recognition of the achievements of the Korean Americans and immigrants who worked hard to improve the quality of life in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland," said Mr. Suh.

Chung Pak, a commissioner of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, said: "Korean Americans and immigrants have made significant contributions in the areas of science, technology, business, education and arts for the past 109 years and made the ultimate sacrifices in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Iraq War, the war in Afghanistan and the war on terror to protect and improve the lives of countless people in Montgomery County, the State of Maryland and our nation. They are proud and grateful to Montgomery County Councilmembers, especially to Councilmember Valerie Ervin, as we mark the anniversary of formal recognition for Korean Americans by designating Jan.13 as Korean American Day."

Councilmember Ervin also will present a formal proclamation to recognize the importance of Korean American Day during the first Council session of 2013, which is Jan. 15.

Among the dignitaries expected for Wednesday's event are:

- Maryland State Delegate Susan Lee
- James Suh, president of the Korean American Association of Maryland
- Yun J. Yang, president of the Korean American Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Harold Pyon, president of the Korean American Social Service Center
- Linda Han, president of Hanin Global Yundai
- James Han, president of the League of Korean Americans of Maryland
- Young Ha Kim, president of the Montgomery County Korean American Association
- Chung K. Pak, commissioner on the Maryland Higher Education Commission
- Soon Gu Yoon, Korean General Counsel
- Hee K. Park, president of the Korean American Senior Citizens
- Dr. Young Dae Cha, president of the League of Korean Americans, USA

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